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Kelly: 'Mafia more powerful than forces'

NATIONALIST leader Guillermo Patricio Kelly, who turned up alive at a service station in Maschwitz shortly after midnight yesterday, attributed his abduction to "a mafia which has more power in this country than the armed forces."

At an impromptu news conference outside his home, Kelly said he knew the identity of several of the armed men who kidnapped him on Wednesday morning, but declined to name them on the grounds of "secret court proceedings."

The 14 men who allegedly took part in his abduction "belong to a gang of followers of Lorenzo Miguel who have been acting within the labour unions for many years, with the help of their bodyguards, professional killers and drug dealers," Kelly said.

District Judge Lucio Somoza, who is investigating the case, "will disclose the identity of my

captors on Monday," the editor of the monthly Quorum magazine said.

Visibly tired, Kelly told the crowd of journalists that he had testified before Judge Somoza at the 35th precinct police station "from three to six in the morning." This followed "a three-hour testimony at a provincial police station in Maschwitz," 40km north of downtown Buenos Aires, where he was taken after reportedly asking for help at the Maschwitz Argentine Automobile Club (ACA) service station. An eyewitness at the service station said Kelly's clothes were "bloodstained all over."

Kelly told reporters that he was kept lying face down on the floor of a car for over 16 hours, and his kidnappers were "doing quite a few nice things to me." He refused to give details, however, on whether he escaped from his captors or if they let him go. He

would save his story for the judge, he said.

Asked whether the incident might have been a "self-abduction," Kelly replied angrily: "They beat me on the head and kicked me in the kidneys until I

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'Prisoners of a mafia of 100'

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urinated blood. Then they broke one of my legs and burst my testicles... What else do you want? Do you want me to show them to you?"

Kelly had cuts all over his face and on his scalp, as well as bruises around his eyes.

Kelly praised the police's behaviour in the face of his abduction, stating that "if the patrolmen who were observing the kidnapping had done any attempt to intercede, both they and I would have been instantly killed."